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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §
Stephen R. Dohm § Group Art Unit: 3677
Serial No.: 10/050,243 §
Filed: January 16, 2002 §
For: INTERNALLY THREADED §
FASTENER AND STEMMED §
WASHER ASSEMBLY §
Examiner: Saether, Flemming
Atty. Docket: ITWO:0026/YOD
(13411-70)

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION OR MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) or is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:	
December 9, 2004	
Date	Tait R. Swanson

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED ON AUGUST 19, 2004

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 19, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and remarks. Applicant also submits that the finality of the present Office Action is improper and should be removed as agreed during a previous Examiner interview. Specifically, the present Office Action was a first Office action following a Request for Continued Examination accompanying an Amendment and Response. This Office Action presented new art and new grounds of rejection and, thus, should not have been made final. In addition, as discussed in detail below, the Applicant stresses that the Examiner's proposed combination of references is improper, because it *changes the principle of operation* and renders the features of the cited references *inoperative for their intended purposes*. See M.P.E.P. §§ 2143.01 and 2145.